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13 September 1949

FILE NO
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Status of BGFIEND as of 13 September 1949

1. The British plan as part of their Valuable Operation to send into Albania three sorties. (A sortie consists of two parties of five men each). One sortie has already been landed in the vicinity of Gjinokaster and Vlone. A second will go to Barat and Gjinokaster on the 14th of September. The third and final ^{one} has not as yet received definite instructions as to exactly when it will be used; however, it will operate in the Korce area. Since Korce is a considerable distance inland, this sortie may possibly be sent overland from Greece.

2. The British contemplate closing their Albanian camp located in Malta before winter in order to validate their cover story. This is necessary as it is likely that some British trained Albanians will be arrested by the Albanian Security Police and forced to divulge where they were trained. In such a case UN observers may be requested by the USSR to ascertain whether there is a covert Albanian training camp on Malta.

3. OPS has sent the British, via [] a detailed request for operational facilities in Malta; to which the British have replied that they would grant us accommodations for approximately 40 agents, but would only permit two American deputies to come to Malta. In addition, we will have to vacate Malta when the camp is closed down. The British have not to date answered our other request, sent in the same communication.

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as to whether or not they would permit us to use their air field facilities.

4. At present OPS is debriefing [] and although he has done a remarkably good job in certain aspects, they now find that he has failed to forward on to us considerable information, his excuse being that he was too rushed. For example, he now maintains that it doesn't make any difference whether Zog denounces the committee or not, since the Zog adherents on the committee will not withdraw even in the face of a Zog blast.

5. The major problem which we are faced with at the present moment is the question of an appropriate base. Unless the British reconsider the use of Cirenaica, the situation seems almost insoluble, especially as the Department of State will not permit the use of Italy or Greece. Therefore, the moment there appears to be no alternative solution to this pressing problem, unless we are permitted to use the Island of Corfu at least as an advance base in conjunction with some training base far removed from the target area. The British will undoubtedly use Corfu.

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